



Clark County Health Department

Dr. Eric B. Yazel, Health Officer

1201 Wall Street | Jeffersonville, IN 47130 | (812)282-7521
www.clarkhealth.net

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE July 23rd, 2024

Board members present: Dr. Eric Yazel, Clark County Health Officer; Jason Werle, Norton Clark Hospital; Mark Furnish, Monroe Township Fire Department; Shannon Watterson, Jeffersonville Retired Paramedic & Fire Fighter.

Dr. Yazel called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2024:

Mr. Jason Werle made a motion to approve minutes from June 25th, 2024, meeting, Ms. Shannon Watterson seconded.

Public Comments:

Old Business:

Meeting time/structure:

Dr. Yazel received request to adjust meeting times, this may provide more structure from efficiency standpoint. Ms. Watterson made a motion to move next meeting time to 6 PM on Tuesdays. Mr. Werle seconded.

Safety Plan Legal Review:

Dr. Yazel made some revisions from last meeting to the safety plan. Discussion included the need to have the ordinance written in actual legal terms. CCHD will send the plan to a firm in Indianapolis for legal review to ensure it is compliant with Indiana Law. Dr. Yazel proposed this as the next step and then review for any final changes. We can't have ten different revisions going through lawyers ten different times; let's get it lined out and make sure were all on board



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with it and get it through. Mr. Werle made a motion to approve to send for legal review. Ms. Watterson seconded.

Mutual Aid Agreement:

CCHD now has standardized mutual aid agreements that will be utilized for partnerships with anyone in the county. Currently there is a mutual aid agreement between Tri-Township but will be revised.

Mr. Furnish asked if the document needed legal review. Dr. Yazel stated it probably needs it, CCHD will have our attorneys revise and ensure it meets all criteria and it is not conflicting with our Safety Plan.

Current Status Update:

Dr. Yazel stated we have had some coverage issues and have expressed our concerns on the level of coverage. The main issue is that coverage is simply not available. We are asking for coverage that isn't there. The workforce isn't there and we are asking for something they can't provide right now. New Chapel is trying to alleviate that. What happened a week ago when there was a lack of paramedic coverage is something that could happen again in the short term and long term. This is why we made the recommendation to start looking at providing some supplemental coverage.

Suggested proposal per Heartland contract:

4 ALS Ambulances 24/7/365:

Monthly Cost to County:

Month 1: \$130,000

Month 2: \$110,000

Month 3: \$103,000



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Mr. Werle made a motion to approve the negotiation for the suggested proposal for 4 ALS ambulances 24/7/365 for a three-month trial, Mr. Furnish seconded.

Commissioner Glover asked if the advisory board would make a motion on the recommendation and then a vote. He suggested that the advisory board establish a start date to prepare for funding. Mr. Werle withdrew first motion to approve the negotiation for the suggested proposal for 4 ALS ambulances. Mr. Werle submitted a second motion for the 4 ALS ambulances option for three months on or before August 1st, 2024; Clark County Commissioners approval pending. Mr. Furnish seconded. There was a unanimous vote.

Committee Member Reports:

Mr. Werle noted that Norton Clark has been discussing transportation out of the hospital. Currently New Chapel gets first calls but if unable to meet the call in a timely manner they have a protocol in place with Trans-Care and Norton transport for second call if needed. They have Indiana licensure for ALS Service but do not have staffing so the second call is case by case.

Commissioner Glover stated that he appreciated the guidance, recommendation, and moving so fast. He noted that August 1st will be the first Commissioner meeting. Hypothetically, if a contract is in hand, it could be discussed at the department head meeting which is an advertised meeting. If not possible to address at department head meeting, then it could be taken up August 1st, something to keep in mind.

EMS Provider Reports:

Mr. Owen stated they still have some shortages. They have submitted their training institute to the state in order to provide for more providers in the field. They are waiting for resubmission and final approval, once approved they anticipate providing some advanced certification for current staff. Mr. Owen questioned what the interoperability looks like with the service that comes to supplement. Mr. Owen stated our folks need that assistance and we very much appreciate the county, the health department, and this committee recognizing the needed assistance. He is wondering what the interoperability looks like, how we distinguish what ambulances are running where. These are just the initial questions.



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Commissioner Glover wanted to clarify that with supplemental coverage coming it's fair to expect four (4) Heartland ALS ambulances, two (2) from New Chapel, two (2) from Tri-Township, one (1) from Monroe Township, one (1) in New Washington up until a certain point. At any given time during the day there should be ten ambulances in this county operating to provide coverage.

Dr. Yazel stated that as the population grows and our dynamics change this is the level we needed.

Fire/Law Enforcement Reports:

Chief Furnish and Chief Cochran from Washington Fire Department believe there are additional dollars available. Both Monroe and New Washington would officially like to ask for some of the unused subsidy. Chief Furnish stated they are not doing it to make money, but to cover extra expenses out of their budget.

Dr. Yazel stated that Jeff Dickson, EMS Subcommittee member, mentioned exploring the option to provide funding for Tri-Township, New Washington, and to have discussions with Monroe to see exactly what they need to flex up their level of services as well. This is not intended to replace long term options.

Commissioner Glover stated that what would make the most sense is to have the fire district boards, the governing board look at finances. Have the board look at charges incurred for a certain period of time and write a formal request with the reason for that request to Clark County Commissioners.

Dr. Yazel made a motion for the EMS Subcommittee to support our local services as they negotiate moving forward funding support to enhance their service delivery for their municipalities. Mr. Werle seconded.

Commissioner Glover stated that including the supplemental coverage coming online it has been some time since we have been able to say we have ten ambulances covering the county at one



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given time. Strides are being made propping up a service that we have now. The Commissioners are asking the advisory board, in a rather short period of time, what the long-term plan is going to be for EMS in the county. The commissioners need to know if the plan/recommendation from this subcommittee is going to be fire based EMS services. If that is the case then the commissioners will need to reach out to each area or municipality to let them know that as of 01/01/2026 they will be responsible for their own EMS services. As commissioners, we need to at least provide them enough time for them to be ready to go. They need to have an official notification from Clark County Commissioners

Dr. Yazel stated our goal from our standpoint is to figure it out by a certain date. CCHD and the advisory committee will have to review what each plan for each municipality so that we can move forward as a cohesive unit.

Next Meeting:

Meeting time will change to 6pm on Tuesday, August 27th, 2024.

Adjourn:

Chief Mark Furnish made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Shannon Watterson seconded. Meeting ended at 1:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Eric Yazel,
EMS Subcommittee President